

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A primer set comprising ~~sequences of a first~~ oligonucleotide comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second oligonucleotide comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2).

2. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*[[.]] in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing DNA from a test sample suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* or a test sample of bacterial cells or microorganisms suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;

(b) amplifying a target sequence of DNA from the test sample using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO: 1) and a second primer comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions; and

(c) detecting the presence of ~~[[the]] an amplification-product(s) product~~ of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the test sample.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating or monitoring the efficacy of ~~treatments~~ a treatment utilized to eliminate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* from a seed lot, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first test sample from a seed lot suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;

(b) providing DNA from said first test sample or cells or microorganisms from the first test sample suspected of containing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;

(c) amplifying a target sequence of DNA using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second primer

comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;

(d) detecting the presence of amplification products of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the first test sample;

(e) treating the seed lot from which the first test sample was obtained or a portion thereof with a composition to reduce or eradicate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, thereby producing a treated seed lot;

(f) providing a second test sample from the treated seed lot or treated portion thereof;

(g) providing DNA from said second test sample or cells or microorganisms from the second test sample ~~suspected of containing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*~~;

(h) amplifying a target DNA using primers comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;

(i) detecting the presence of an ~~[[the]]~~ amplification-product(s) product of the target DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the second test sample; and

(j) comparing the amount of a second amplification-product(s) product or absence of said second amplification-products product in the second test sample to the amount of said amplification products detected in the first test sample in step (d) as an indication of whether ~~or not the treatment~~ said treating step has been successful in reducing or eradicating reduced or eradicated *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the seed lot.

4. (Currently Amended) A test kit for identifying *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* comprising:

a primer set comprising ~~oligonucleotides having the sequence comprising of~~ a first oligonucleotide comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second oligonucleotide comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2).

5. (New) A method of treating a seed lot to eliminate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first test sample from a seed lot suspected of containing DNA of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;

(b) providing DNA from said first test sample or cells or microorganisms from the first test sample suspected of containing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*;

(c) amplifying a target sequence of DNA using a set of primers including a first primer comprising 5'-CGCGCCGACCGAGACCTG - 3' (SEQ. ID NO:1) and a second primer comprising 5'-GGGGCACGCCAACATCCT -3' (SEQ. ID NO:2) under amplification conditions;

(d) detecting the presence of amplification products of the target sequence of DNA as an indication of the presence of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in the first test sample; and

(e) treating the seed lot from which the first test sample was obtained or a portion thereof with a composition to reduce or eradicate *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, thereby producing a treated seed lot.